

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

PAUL J. SMITH,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	Civil Action No. 07-477-GMS
)	
REGIONAL MEDICAL FIRST)	
CORRECTIONAL and THOMAS)	
CARROLL,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

ORDER

At Wilmington this ^{16th} day of *May*, 2008, having considered the plaintiff's pending motion for appointment of counsel;

IT IS ORDERED that the motion (D.I. 19) is **denied** without prejudice for the following reasons:

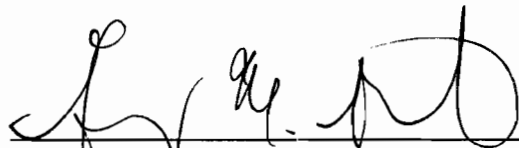
1. A *pro se* litigant proceeding *in forma pauperis* has no constitutional or statutory right to representation by counsel. *See Ray v. Robinson*, 640 F.2d 474, 477 (3d Cir. 1981); *Parham v. Johnson*, 126 F.3d 454, 456-57 (3d Cir. 1997). It is within the court's discretion to seek representation by counsel for plaintiff, and this effort is made only "upon a showing of special circumstances indicating the likelihood of substantial prejudice to [plaintiff] resulting . . . from [plaintiff's] probable inability without such assistance to present the facts and legal issues to the court in a complex but arguably meritorious case." *Smith-Bey v. Petsock*, 741 F.2d 22, 26 (3d Cir. 1984); *accord Tabron v. Grace*, 6 F.3d 147, 155 (3d Cir. 1993) (representation by counsel may be appropriate under certain circumstances, after a finding that a plaintiff's claim has arguable merit in fact and law).

2. After passing this threshold inquiry, the court should consider a number of factors when assessing a request for counsel, including:

- (1) the plaintiff's ability to present his or her own case;
- (2) the difficulty of the particular legal issues; (3) the degree to which factual investigation will be necessary and the ability of the plaintiff to pursue investigation; (4) the plaintiff's capacity to retain counsel on his own behalf; (5) the extent to which a case is likely to turn on credibility determinations; and
- (6) whether the case will require testimony from expert witnesses.

Tabron, 6 F.3d at 155-57; *accord Parham*, 126 F.3d at 457; *Montgomery v. Pinchak*, 294 F.3d 492, 499 (3d Cir. 2002).

3. In his motion for appointment of counsel, the plaintiff states that he is "at a disability state of not being fully capable of performing all functions" and he needs "civil actions to protect [his] private civil right[s]." This case is in its very early stages and discovery has not yet commenced. Upon consideration of the record, the court is not persuaded that appointment of counsel is warranted at this time.


CHIEF, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

